have been made in different fora, the working days in the Supreme Court and High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective Courts. According to available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year; all High Courts in the country normally have 210 working days in a year.

The Department of Justice had, in the year 2002-2003, examined the matter of increasing the number of working days in Courts. In view of the urgent need of the hour to reduce the huge pendencies prevailing in the High Courts, this Department addressed to all the High Courts, requesting them to fix the period of vacations in such a way that the number of working days of High Courts generally do not fall below 222 days in a year.

Various other steps have been taken by the Government to expedite disposal of cases, these include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of specialized benches, timely filling up the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, etc., establishing Fast Track Courts, and computerization of courts.

Vacant posts of Notary public in Tamil Nadu

2045. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of Notary Public are lying vacant in various courts of Tamil Nadu as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill-up those vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No specific number of Notaries to be appointed for each Court situated in a District in the State of Tamil Nadu has been fixed either under the Notaries Act, 1952 or under rules made thereunder.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.